

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I write to again voice concerns about the allocation of funding from the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) trade aid following reports that the President's 2016 campaign advisors on his "Agriculture and Rural Advisory Committee" received nearly \$2.2 million from the program. This raises serious questions about conflicts of interests when significant funds from a program administered solely by the Executive Branch went to those who serve to advance the President's own political agenda.

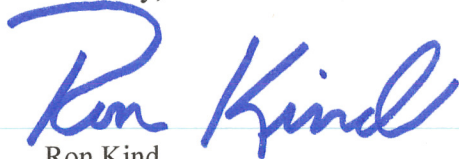
Using information from a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a recent report found that fifteen Trump campaign advisors were able to receive significant funds from MFP. Several of these advisors received well over six figures, with one cotton grower and former county Republican Party chair receiving nearly \$875,000. Additionally, a former Republican governor of North Dakota received over a quarter of a million dollars. This trade aid package was supposed to solely provide short term relief to farmers impacted by retaliatory trade actions to the President's tariffs.

This follows the already troubling reports finding that over half of the MFP dollars has gone to just the largest ten percent of producers and that thousands of payments were sent to individuals living in the largest cities in the United States, rather than to farmers struggling to overcome recently inaccessible export markets. Indeed, \$38 million in payments were sent to those living in large U.S. cities, including Washington, DC, New York City, and San Francisco.

Many in Wisconsin are finding themselves struggling to adjust to the seemingly erratic and impulsive decisions regarding their export markets, and this trade aid package was supposed to solely provide short term relief to these farmers. Instead, I am concerned that certain insiders are finding themselves on the fast track to receiving bailout money while many family farmers find themselves on the outside of financial assistance to weather the President's trade war.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. I expect that we have a shared commitment to ensuring that this trade aid money is allocated fairly and without political favoritism. I look forward to your reply with an explanation as to how over \$2 million from this program went to some of the President's closest political agricultural advisors from his Presidential Campaign.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress